

Environmental Resources Section

Background:

The Recycling unit was established in 1989 to ensure compliance with the West Virginia Natural Resources Laws Chapter 20, Article 11. These laws mandate recycling and set recycling goals which are as follows:

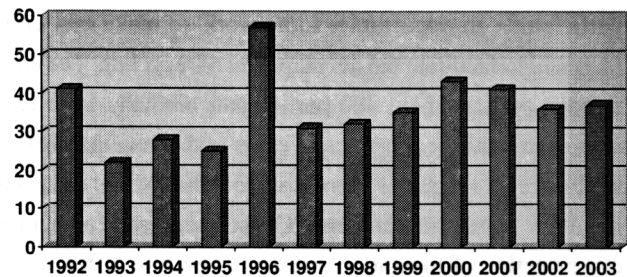


- To reduce the disposal of municipal solid waste by 50 percent of the amount of per capita solid waste disposed of in 1991, by the first day of January 2010.
- The identification and creation of local, regional, state and national markets for recyclable materials so that effective recycling programs can be implemented.
- Voluntarily establish and participate in recycling programs that provide and encourage source separation of solid waste and curbside collection of recyclables.
- To have curbside recycling programs in all municipalities with populations of 10,000 or more people.
- That each county commission, or citizens of a county by referendum, adopt a comprehensive recycling program for solid waste.
- To increase the purchase of recycled products by various agencies and instrumentalities of government.
- To educate the public concerning the benefits of recycling.

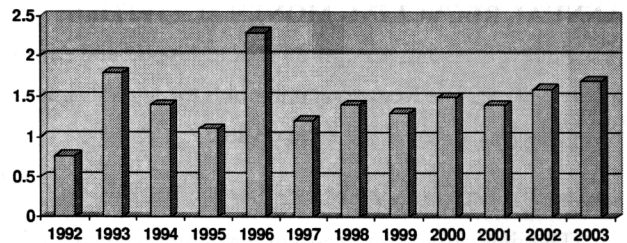
The Recycling unit employs four full time employees and one part-time employee. Summer interns help meet additional staffing needs, especially in collecting and compiling data. The unit is responsible for administering the following programs which have been designed and implemented to help reach the recycling goals:

THE WEST VIRGINIA RECYCLING ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

The West Virginia Recycling Assistance Grant Program is funded by a \$1 fee that is levied on each ton of solid waste landfilled in the state. The Recycling Assistance Grant Program provides assistance to counties, municipalities and others planning and implementing recycling programs, related public education programs and recycling market efforts. The maximum funding available for a public entity is \$100,000 and for a private entity the maximum is \$50,000. Applications for Recycling Assistance Grants must be received by the last business day in July. The following graphs show the yearly activity of the Recycling Assistance Grant Program.



Graph (1) represents the number of grants awarded each year by the West Virginia Recycling Assistance Grant Program.



Graph (2) represents the yearly amount of grants awarded in millions of dollars from the West Virginia Recycling Assistance Grant Program.

Since the inception of the West Virginia Recycling Assistance Grant Program, 428 grants have been awarded totaling \$18,140,483

LITTER CONTROL GRANT PROGRAM

Litter Control Grants are awarded to cities, municipalities and commissions to assist them with clean up projects. This is a matching fund grant program pursuant to 20-7-25(b) of the West Virginia code. The maximum grant is \$3,000. Applications must be postmarked by May 31 for consideration in the next grant period. Over the life of the Litter Control Grant Program, 112 grants have been awarded totaling \$342,350.

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DEVELOPMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF RECYCLING LITERATURE

Literature related to recycling and environmental issues is developed and distributed. Specific groups such as schools, businesses and the general public are targeted in an effort to provide information and create awareness about recycling and environmental issues.

ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE

The annual Governor's Conference on Environmental Education and Litter Control is a three-day event attended by a diverse audience that has a common interest in environmental education, solid waste management, litter control and other environmental issues. This forum allows the participants an opportunity to network, to make new contacts and to facilitate the development of recycling. The conference attracts about 300 participants annually from federal, state and local agencies, cities and municipalities as well as representatives from private industry and environmentally concerned citizens. Guest speakers represent a cross-section of the nation and bring new and different aspects to solving existing environmental problems.

ANNUAL RECYCLING MONTH ACTIVITIES

Statewide events are coordinated to support and encourage recycling. The Recycling unit holds the annual America Recycles Day event at the state capitol.

STATEWIDE DATA COLLECTION

The data collection program was implemented so that we can accurately determine our recycling rate. This data also provides comprehensive statewide information that allows development of more effective recycling programs and identify the areas that our efforts will have the maximum impact. The members on the Data Collection Team were selected to provide input from a broad range of stakeholders. The team comprises representatives from the following groups:

- WV Division of Natural Resources
- WV Solid Waste Management Board
- WV Chamber of Commerce
- WV Waste Haulers/Recyclers Association
- WV Public Service Commission

- WV Development Office
- WV Retailers Association
- WV Division of Environmental Protection
- Charleston Environmental and Recycling Committee

THE STATE OFFICE PAPER RECYCLING PROGRAM

State agencies participate in the WV Public Employees Office Wastepaper Recovery Program, which collects office paper, aluminum/bimetal cans, plastic, and corrugated boxes. The success of the program is defined by the education and environmental awareness it provides to the participants. The ultimate goal of the program is to help develop the infrastructure and markets in all areas of the state so that every state agency can participate in the program.

NETWORKING/PARTNERSHIPS

The Recycling unit partners and networks with several different groups and organizations to leverage resources. DNR is a member of the Mid Atlantic Consortium of Recycling and Economic Development Officials (MACREDO). This organization is comprised of representatives from the states of West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Delaware and the District of Columbia. This organization identifies, promotes and implements projects and programs that enhance recycling and economic development. MACREDO is funded by and works closely with Region III EPA.

DNR supports the annual conference of the Association of West Virginia Solid Waste Authorities, and co-sponsors, with the Recycling Coalition of West Virginia, the State's observance of America Recycles Day.

Support is provided to the West Virginia Collegiate Environmental Network (WVCEN) which is comprised of environmental groups from the states colleges and universities. The purpose of this organization is to facilitate internship opportunities with businesses as well as state and local governments. These internships allow the students to earn money to help continue their educations as well as provide them with valuable work experience.